

Today, we present the first in a series of entries showcasing [member profiles](#) and psychoanalytic research projects at [CHASE institutions](#).

We feature the work of [Ian Magor](#), a PhD student at Birkbeck. Magor's research examines the pooling of expertise between American psychiatrists, filmmakers and the military during the Second World War and its influence on Cold War concepts of brainwashing and thought control. Ian recently completed an MA at Birkbeck in Psychoanalysis, History and Culture, during which he began to make work on video. His work A TRAUMA MONTAGE, (the first video embedded in the full length post below), was recently selected [as one of the best video essays of 2015](#) by online film critics.

If you are a researcher (postgraduate or faculty) working on psychoanalysis in a CHASE institution and would like to join the network and publish your profile at this website, please contact us on [repsychoanalysis@gmail.com](mailto:repsychoanalysis@gmail.com). Thank you.

## A TRAUMA MONTAGE

By [Ian Magor](#) (Birkbeck, University of London)

The research I am carrying out for my PhD project is focused particularly on the enthusiasm of the post WWII American psychiatric profession to shift the cause of the country's extensive psychoneurotic war casualties away from the battleground and into the home. Such a debate highlights how overwhelmingly trauma is associated with war and its associated conditions of shellshock, combat exhaustion and PTSD. I wanted to think about what we might call everyday trauma, the kind that takes us by surprise through an unexpected trigger. A flock of birds, a shake of the head, a wave on a rock.

Cinema is perhaps uniquely suited to capturing these moments. Although narrative arcs of crisis, complication and resolution are shared with other art forms, the use of flashbacks, cuts, juxtapositions and dissolves seem peculiarly tuned to the traumatic register. As well as using clips that I think demonstrate this, I have tried to put them together in such a way that something of the traumatic moment is experienced almost viscerally. In doing this I am also questioning how far cinema and television are implicated in the traumatic, a form of vicarious trauma.

[I have assembled over fifty video montages](#); most have some psychoanalytic content. The following are the most directly related:

On *Let There Be Light* by John Huston

Oedipal fantasies in Spike Jonze's *Her*

Kafka's *The Trial* by Orson Welles

On 'the psychoanalytic gaze'

On 'momism' in *The Manchurian Candidate*

On psychiatric treatment as filmed in WWII documentaries and postwar cinema

A compilation of the portrayal of mental unease on screen

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